

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02
L-03 OIC-02 /091 W
-----107222 081718Z /42

R 081702Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5407
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA

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NESCO

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: UNESCO, AORG, PORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO: INFORMATION GROUP MEETING--REQUEST FOR
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US "PROPOSAL" FOR
HANDLING DIVISIVE POLITICAL ISSUES IN UNESCO

1. INFORMATION GROUP, CHAIRED BY NEW ZEALAND, MET ON
JULY 6. ATTENDANCE WAS SMALL AS MANY MEMBERS ALREADY
AWAY ON HOLIDAYS. NEXT SESSION WILL BE CONVENED ON
SEPT 2.

2. PRINCIPAL TOPICS INCLUDED REVIEW OF STATUS OF USG
"PROPOSAL" FOR MECHANISM TO HANDLE DIVISIVE POLITICAL
CONFRONTATIONS IN UNESCO, WHICH US DEL TABLED AT 102 EXBD
MEETING, AND US DEL SUGGESTION THAT MORE EFFICIENT MEANS
OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE IG AND OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS BE
SOUGHT.

3. US PERM DEL RECALLED, PER US "PROPOSAL", THAT A
MECHANISM MIGHT CONSIST OF A COMMITTEE OF NON-
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GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS APPOINTED BY DG, WITH EXBD'S
CONCURRENCE, WHICH WOULD REVIEW CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL
ISSUES AND SUBMIT FINDINGS TO EXBD, THE GEN CONF, OR
OTHER APPROPRIATE BODIES. POINTING OUT THAT VEHICLE SUCH
AS DRAFTING AND NEGOTIATING GROUP MIGHT ULTIMATELY BE
FOUND A FEASIBLE SOLUTION, HE STRESSED THAT US PROPOSAL
IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE, THAT IT WILL BE RAISED AGAIN

AT 103 EXBD, PROBABLY IN CONTEXT OF ITEM SUCH AS
"WORKING METHODS OF EXBD" WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN
INSCRIBED ON AGENDA, AND ASKED MEMBERS TO SOLICIT THEIR
GOVTS' REACTIONS. IG MEMBERS AGREED THAT DISCUSSION
UNDER ANOTHER AGENDA ITEM RATHER THAN ITS OWN WOULD
PROBABLY HELP TO AVOID PROVOKING UNMANAGEABLE DEBATE
AND A NEGATIVE VOTE BEFORE "PROPOSAL" IS GIVEN A FAIR
HEARING. REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA,
NEW ZEALAND, AND FRG STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY
WOULD NEED TO KNOW THE ELEMENTS OF THE US "PROPOSAL"
IN MORE CONCRETE TERMS IN ORDER TO ELICIT USEFUL
RESPONSES FROM THEIR GOVTS. FURTHERMORE, THEIR GENERALLY
"LUKE-WARM" SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE OF US "PROPOSAL" WAS
TEMPERED WITH FAIR AMOUNT OF SKEPTICISM ABOUT CHANCES
FOR SUCCESS. BELGIUM'S AMBASSADOR VAN USSEL ALSO
REPEATED EARLIER COUNSEL THAT US PROPOSAL SHOULD BE KEPT
SEPARATE FROM DNG, AS DNG WAS CREATURE OF THE 19TH GEN
CONF AND HAS NO LIFE BEYOND IT.

4. PERM REP REPLIED THAT INITIAL "PROPOSAL" HAS BEEN
KEPT PURPOSELY VAGUE AS A TACTICAL MATTER, AS WELL AS TO
KEEP DOOR OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID
THAT PROPOSAL CAN BE EXPANDED, AND TAILORED TO
OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY 103 EXBD, AND THAT IT IS LIKELY
USG WILL NEED TO GO TO CAPITALS, OWING TO PRESS OF TIME
AND FACT THAT MOST OF IG MEMBERS WILL BE AWAY ON
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VACATION DURING JULY AND AUGUST.

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L-03 OIC-02 /091 W

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5. COMMENT: IF PERM DEL IS TO PREPARE GROUND PROPERLY FOR ELABORATED US "PROPOSAL" (PARA. 3 ABOVE) WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE 103 EXBD, WE WILL NEED ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF PROPOSAL WELL BEFORE BEGINNING OF AUGUST WHEN ALMOST ALL DELEGATIONS WILL BE AWAY ON HOLIDAY. THE TIME BETWEEN THE BEGINNING OF SEPT AND SEPT 12 OPENING OF EXBD WOULD NOT BE ADEQUATE TO DO WORK PROPERLY. WE WILL ALSO NEED TO GO TO CAPITALS TO MUSTER SUPPORT AND COSPONSORSHIP FOR US "PROPOSAL" AS PERM DELS IN PARIS WILL NOT IN MOST CASES HAVE AUTHORITY TO ACT.

6. CONCERNING MORE EFFICIENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE IG AND OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS, US PERM REP SUGGESTED THAT IG MAY WISH TO ADOPT A PROCEDURE OF CONSTITUTING A "SOUNDING COMMITTEE" WHICH WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO APPROACH KEY LEADERS REPRESENTING OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THIS IS PRESENTLY BEING DONE ON A "PERSONAL" NON-OFFICIAL BASIS, THE REGULARIZATION OF THIS METHOD WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAD TO BETTER COORDINATION, INFORMATION AND CONCILIATION. IG MEMBERS PRESENT RESPONDED GENERALLY THAT THEY BELIEVED ATTENTION TO IMPROVED COORDINATION WAS INDEED A GOOD IDEA, BUT PREFERRED TO DEAL WITH EACH QUESTION OF "MUTUAL INTEREST" ON AN AD HOC BASIS RATHER THAN CONSTITUTING ANY FORMAL "SOUNDING COMMITTEE." IN CONCLUSION IT WAS AGREED THAT THE "SOUNDING COMMITTEE" METHOD WOULD BE USED AS A REGULARIZED METHOD FOR CONSULTING WITH OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS ON AN ISSUE BY ISSUE BASIS. MEMBERS OF THE "SOUNDING COMMITTEE" WOULD BE SELECTED AS THE SITUATION DEMANDED AND WOULD REPRESENT THE IG. ANY MEMBER OF THE IG COULD AT ANY TIME REQUEST A "SOUNDING COMMITTEE" TO CONTACT LEADERS OF OTHER UNESCO GROUPS AND REPORT BACK TO THE FULL IG. WITH THESE MODIFICATIONS THE US PROPOSAL WAS AGREED TO UNANIMOUSLY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS19936
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1921222
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO: INFORMATION GROUP MEETING--REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US \"PROPOSAL\" FOR HANDLING DIVISIVE POLITICAL ISSUES IN UNESCO
TAGS: AORG, PORG, US, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/86af8a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009